

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 01580 031103Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /026 W

-----032054Z 000211 /44

R 030938Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6800

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 1580

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, GH

SUBJ: NEW GHANAIAAN AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. NICHOLAS ALANDO, EDITOR OF "THE MIRROR", HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMB. TO JIDDA. (PAPER IS OWNED BY GRAPHIC CORP., WHICH ALSO PUBLISHES "DAILY GRAPHIC", GHANA'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER.) BORN AT KINTAMPE, BRONG-AHAFO REGION, GHANA, ON FEB. 18, 1933, ALANDO IS MEMBER OF FRAFA TRIBE. EDUCATED IN TAMALE AS A TEACHER, HE TAUGHT IN UPPER REGION FROM 1950-54. JOINING "DAILY GRAPHIC" STAFF IN 1954, HE ROSE THROUGH RANKS, WINNING COMMONWEALTH PRESS UNION FELLOWSHIP IN 1960 AND SPENDING SIX MONTHS IN UK STUDYING JOURNALISM AND WORKING ON LOCAL PAPERS. FOLLOWING RETURN TO GHANA, HE BECAME NES EDITOR OF "DAILY GRAPHIC" IN 1962, A POST HE HELD UNTIL PROMOTED TO EDITOR OF "THE MIRROR" FOLLOWING FALL OF NKRUMAH IN 1966. THREE YEARS LATER HE BECAME EDITOR OF "DAILY GRAPHIC" BUT LOST JOB IN 1970 WHEN BUSIA GOVT. CASHIERED HIM ALONG WITH OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS. WHEN BUSIA WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1972 COUP, ALANDO WAS REAPPOINTED EDITOR OF "THE MIRROR."

2. IN ADDITION TO VISITING UK, HE HAS GONE TO USSR, NORTH KOREA, PRC, PAKISTAN AND EGYPT. HE VISITED THE US IN FALL OF 1976 UNDER IV PROGRAM TO OBSERVE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; TRIP APPARENTLY WENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL. ALANDO IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN. IN HIS NEWSPAPER CAREER HE WAS NOT NOTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY NOR WAS HE DESCRIBED AS A PARTICULARLY ABLE JOURNALIST OR EDITORIAL WRITER. HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS STAFF WERE CHARACTERIZED AS POOR. UNDER HIS STEWARDSHIP "THE MIRROR" HAS DEVOTED ITSELF TO RUNNING PICTURES OF PRETTY GIRLS; IT IS NOT MUCH OF A JOURNALISTIC ENTERPRISE. ALANDO STRIKES US AS A LIGHT-WEIGHT BUT A DECENT PERSON. WE EXPECT YOU WILL FIND HIM

FRIENDLY BUT SHALLOW.

3. ALANDO IS PROBABLY A MUSLIM AND HIS MAY BE ONE OF THE REASONS
HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THIS POST. HIS HOBBIES INCLUDE TENNIS, HUNTING
AND MUSIC.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 68
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1cb8d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3224588
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GHANAIAAN AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: PDIP, GH, SA, (ALANDO, NICHOLAS)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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